

Federated University Police Officers' Association

Police Union Statement on UCLA's Suspension of Palestine Groups for Vandalizing UC Regent's Home

Los Angeles, CA February 12, 2025 – Wade Stern, President of the Federated University Peace Officers Association (FUPOA), which represents over 250 police officers who police the ten campuses within the University of California Police Department System, issued the following statement regarding UCLA's decision to suspend Students for Justice in Palestine and Graduate Students for Justice in Palestine for their alleged recent actions against UC Regent Jonathan "Jay" Sures:

According to the <u>Daily Bruin</u>, the group staged an early-morning protest outside Regent Sures' Brentwood home, defacing his garage door with red handprints, stringing caution tape across his yard, and leaving a sign on the street that read, "Divest now, or you will pay." These actions were not peaceful protests; they were targeted intimidation.

We applaud UCLA's decision to suspend Students for Justice in Palestine and Graduate Students for Justice in Palestine is long overdue. For more than a year, some members of these groups have violated UCLA's rules of conduct with impunity. Yet, until now, the university has refused to impose meaningful consequences. Even in response to this blatant act of vandalism and harassment, UCLA's initial response was a weak, equivocating statement touting a commitment to "freedom of speech" and "nonviolent protest" before finally acknowledging the criminality of these actions. This crime warranted immediate, unequivocal condemnation.

While this suspension is a necessary first step, it is not enough. Any UC student engaging in criminal conduct—vandalism, threats, or harassment—must face real consequences. That means prosecution for violations of criminal law and immediate suspension or expulsion for breaches of UCLA's student conduct policies.

We call on UCLA to support the LAPD in its ongoing investigation of the <u>crimes committed against Regent Sures and his family</u> and for UCLA to demand prosecution of those identified as having violated the law. Universities cannot allow lawlessness under the guise of activism. Only through full accountability will these students learn to confine their actions to those permitted by law and university policy.

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